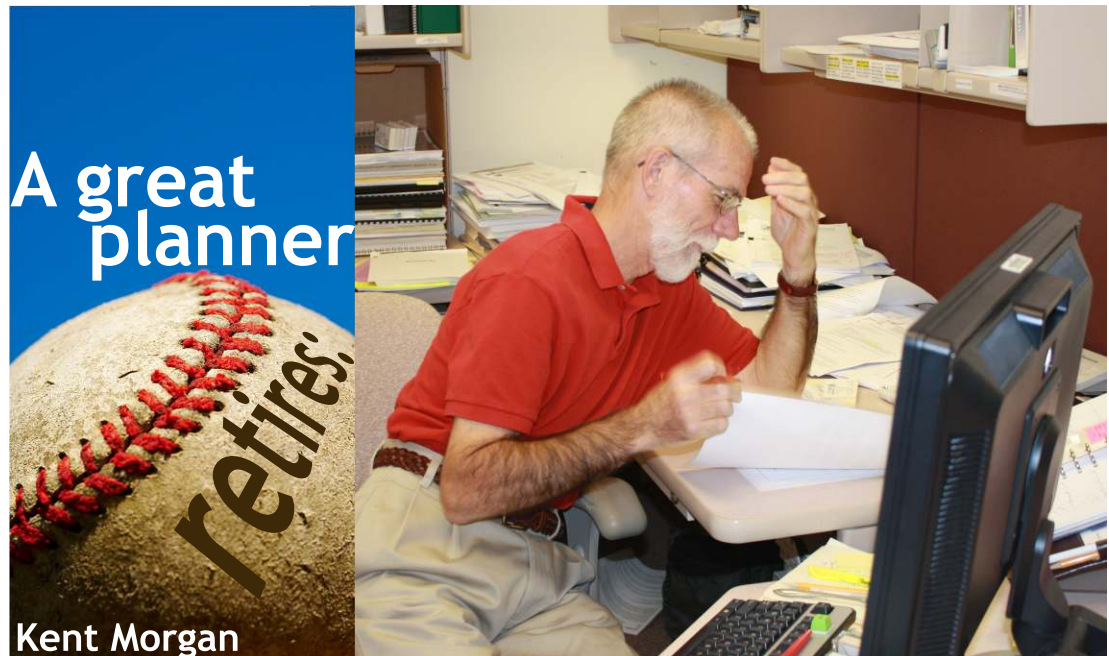


## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS **APPROVED:**

Last month, the Lincoln City Council and the County Board met jointly to hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan that were recommended by the Planning Commission, and approved them all. The amendment which attracted most public comment places more attention on the principle of “sustainability” – making decisions that are not at the expense of future generations – in future planning efforts. In the next year, as the Planning Department and Planning Commission begin a major review and update of the Plan, we hope to define in more detail what implications this may have for community development.



**Kent Morgan**

came to work for the Planning Department in 1976. He left Lincoln in 1979 for Washington D.C., where he worked for a private consultant for two years. But Lincoln's charm and/or its challenges must have captivated him, because he returned in 1981, and has worked since in the Planning Department, most of that time as the department's Assistant Director.

Kent's background is in economics, and he brought that special perspective to much of his work – including his most recent work as project coordinator for the West Haymarket redevelopment project. But he is a man of many interests, which gave him the ability to see the “big picture” in all of his work. This was particularly evident in his leadership on every update of the city-county comprehensive plan/transportation plan during his career here. Kent also played important roles in the development and adoption of the Downtown Master Plan, the development of Haymarket Park and the University Technology Park, the preparation of a comprehensive natural resource database for the county, plans for the Stevens Creek basin, and the City's unique theater policy which enabled development of the downtown theater complex we have today. He also gave birth to the computer mapping and geographic information system in Planning, and coordinated the work in this area of more than a dozen other departments and agencies, in what is still a model envied by other communities. And I am told that as a transit planner in his early days, Kent designed the StarTran logo that has remained to the present day.

Kent's average workweek was twice as long as most of us. He brought his quiet passion and strong intellect to the job every day, helping make Lincoln a city that is admired around the country for its tradition of strong planning. The only time he would take off was for the occasional ball game at Haymarket Park -- baseball being his other love. Speculation is that he will be trying out for the Saltdogs next season. In any case, we hope he will be staying around Lincoln and keeping us all honest.

# ***Streamlining improvements enacted:***

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Several code amendments and administrative improvements have been instituted in the past couple of months:

- City Council adopted a package of amendments to the sign provisions in the zoning ordinance, which simplify, clarify, and in some cases modify standards, and provides for minor administrative adjustments.
- The Council approved an amendment to the subdivision ordinance ending the requirement for a 14-day waiting period between approval and recording of final plats.
- The Council approved an amendment to the zoning ordinance permitting most kinds of additions to dwellings that are “non-standard” today, because they do not meet current standards for setbacks, without the need to obtain approvals through the case-by-case special permit process.
- Planning went “paperless” with the launching of “ePlan.” Applications and drawings that are most often attached to them are now being submitted, reviewed, and processed digitally. Applicants no longer have to bring 30 or more copies of large-sized maps to our office; our staff no longer has to fold and address and mail and wait to receive these drawings with hand-drawn comments from reviewers; the reviewers add their comments to the digital drawings and email them back to us; and applicants/agents can use the web to log in and see all the correspondence on their applications.
- Applicants on final plats no longer have to hand-carry forms to the Tax Appraiser to get certification that taxes are current, or forms to the Register of Deeds to obtain new parcel identification numbers for the new lots they are creating. Instead, Planning sends out emails with information used by those departments to return the forms digitally.

*Marvin Krout  
Director of Planning*

